Steps for Social and Economic Upliftment of Minorities

4920. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken for social and economic upliftment of minorities especially the Muslims; and

(b) the results so far, achieved therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYA NARAYAN JATIYA): (a) and (b) This Ministry has set up the National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation to promote the economic development of the backward sections among the minorities, including Muslims. It provides loans for income generation activities to persons from minority communities whose income is below double the poverty line. It has so far provided term loans worth Rs. 388 crores for 155241 beneficiaries.

The Maulana Azad Education Foundation implements educational schemes for the backward sections among minorities. It has disbursed Rs. 49.40 crores to 406 NGOs upto March, 2002.

The Central Wakf Council has disbursed Rs. 1.74 crores under educational schemes during 2001-02.

The scheme of pre-examination coaching for weaker sections including minorities, aims to enable them to compete on equal terms in competitive and entrance level exams for professional courses and public services. 42050 persons have been coached under this scheme.

Job reservation for handicapped

4921. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Persons with Disabilities Act has been enforced throughout the country;

(b) if so, whether three per cent job reservation as per the provision of the said Act has been implemented;

(c) whether any action has been taken against departments and institutions for not implementing three per cent job reservation;